

97

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/056,793	CHOW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Frances P. Oropeza	3762	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Amendment (6/9/05).
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 25-28 and 53-56.
3.  The drawings filed on 23 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
 of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## ALLOWANCE

### *Reasons for Allowance*

1. Claims 25-28 and 53-56 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The subject matter of the independent claims could either not be found or was not suggested in the prior art. The subject matter not found was a method of improving visual function of a damaged retina in a human eyes/ a method of treating visual degradation resulting from a damaged retina wherein the visual degradation comprises primary or secondary degradation comprising applying electrical stimulation to the eye comprising a voltage potential of  $-20V \leq V_p \leq +20V$ , in combination with the other elements of the claims. The best prior art of record, US 6549808 to Gisel et al., teach stimulating the uveal (the iris, ciliary body and choroids together) and periuveal areas of the eye with a voltage differential of approximately 5 volts, but does not teach a method of electrically stimulating the retina with a voltage potential of  $-20V \leq V_p \leq +20V$  (abstract; col. 3 @ 47-50).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fran Oropeza whose telephone number is (571) 272-4953. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Application/Control Number: 10/056,793  
Art Unit: 3762

Page 3

Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communication and for After Final communications.

Frances P. Oropeza  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3762

JP  
8/16/05

  
Robert E. Pezzuto  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3762